

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03698 180253Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03698

FOR: VOA PGM/P PGM/R, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION DISSIDENTS TRIAL

1. WELLINGTON'S MORNING PAPER, THE DOMINION, JULY 18
UNDER THE HEADING "HAVING TO LIVE WITH RUSSIA," COMMENTED:
2. "THE CRUEL SENTENCES IMPOSED UPON DISSIDENTS WHO
WERE LAST WEEK SUMMONED BEFORE RUSSIA'S STACKED COURTS MAY
APPAL BUT THEY DO NOT SURPRISE. THE VICTIMS WOULD HAVE HAD
NO ILLUSIONS. THESE BRAVE WARRIORS IN THE FOREFRONT OF
THE UNIVERSAL FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS KNEW WELL ENOUGH THE
PENALTY FOR DARING TO CHALLENGE THE STATE'S OMNIPOTENCE.
SOVIET HISTORY IS FURNISHED WITH BRUTAL DENIALS OF HUMAN
LIBERTY.
3. "WERE IT TO BE TESTED, RUSSIAN OPINION WOULD
PROBABLY NOT BE FOUND TO BE OUTRAGED..SUCH SHOW TRIALS SUC-
CEED TO A FRIGHTENING DEGREE IN PERSUADING A CAPTIVE
POPULACE OF THE DANGERS DISSIDENCE BRINGS TO THEIR NATIONS
AND THEIR OWN SECURITY. NOT HAVING EXPERIENCED POLITICAL
FREEDOM, THEY ARE TUTORED TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF IT.

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4. "IT WOULD BE QUITE WRONG, THEREFORE, TO EXPECT FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, THE HELSINKI
ACCORDS OR THE COMPLAINTS FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
OUR OWN, LAST WEEK, A MATCHING RESPONSE OF DISMAY WITHIN
THE SOVIET UNION. PROGRESS TOWARD THAT END IS PAINSTAKING-
LY SLOW...

5. "THIS IS WHY DETENTE, NOW BEING POPULARLY DENIGRATED, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES, REMAINS IMPORTANT. THE WEST SHOULD CONTINUE TO BRING FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CO-OPERATION AND DISARMAMENT; IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE PATHS THAT CONFER MUTUAL ADVANTAGES; IT SHOULD CONTINUE IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHAMPION HUMAN RIGHTS...

6. "IF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE AGAIN TO BE FROZEN THE KREMLIN WOULD BE UNDER FEWER CONSTRAINTS TO HEED WESTERN OPINION. IN THOSE CONDITIONS THE FAINT LIGHT OF PROTEST, WHICH MAY YET LIGHT A FLAME FOR FREEDOM, COULD BE EVEN MORE RUTHLESSLY SNUFFED OUT." ANDERSON

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